

Minutes of January 7, 2004 meeting of the Uintah Basin Regional Council held at Nikis Restaurant in Vernal

Attending: Mark Raymond, Paul Nielson, Tammie Lucero, Judy Chambley, Bill Johnson, Curtis Dastrup, Commissioner Lorna Stradinger, Commissioner Dave Haslem, Wayne Griffin, Yankton Johnson, Jay Kerlin, Randall Bennett, Kimberley Karren, Keith Neilsen, Jack Bell, Randy Deets, Dave Wakefield, Brain Raymond, Ron Tollefson, Dan Wheeler, Lana Carroll, Irene Hansen

DWS Staff: Vint DeGraw, Toni Ansel, Shelly Ivie, Bob Gilbert

Guests: Mr and Mrs. Dick Jones, Jean Mold

Mark Raymond called the meeting to order. Kimberley Karren and Randy Deets were recognized as new Council members.

The minutes were reviewed. Bill Johnson moved approval, Keith seconded. They were approved unanimously.

Mark then said it was a pleasure to recognize Dick Jones for his great service to the Uintah Basin. Mark reviewed some of the accomplishments and positions of leadership that Dick has completed during his career, and presented him with a plaque. Dick thanked the Council for the recognition, and said he very much enjoyed his work at the UBATC and in the community.

Committee reports were then presented. Dan Wheeler said that Rep. Seitz reported at the Planning and Operations Committee, saying that the states economy is getting better and there may be some extra funds at this years legislative session. Since the TANF contracts finished in September, Dan indicated the Committee has met less frequently.

Paul Neilson indicated that the Duchesne Co. Employer Committee has been active, and is sponsoring a seminar on Customer Service Jan 14 and 15. In addition, a career fair is being planned for March 17th at the USU Building in Roosevelt that will run from 11:00 to 4:00.

Ron Tollefson said the Youth Council has continued to recognize successful youth and that high numbers of youth are being served in the Roosevelt and Vernal employment centers. He said that the Youth Council has been concerned about the new education requirements, as raising the bar on at-risk youth means they will struggle even more to graduate. He says that in Uintah County, there is an effort to determine why kids are not doing well. He also indicated that a transition program that involves foster kids transitioning to adulthood may be piloted around the State. There is a possibility that the Basin could be chosen as a pilot site.

Randall Bennett reported that the ad hoc nursing shortage committee, now named the Healthcare Resource Assessment Committee, has met twice, and has involved educators, the hospitals and care centers, and Senator Evans and is making progress. With 1 out of 10 jobs being provided by the healthcare industry nationwide, we need to be sure it is doing well in the Basin. He said that we seem to have enough LPNs, but we project that there will be a significant shortage of RNs. The Committee is looking at several options to address the shortage in the Basin.

Vint DeGraw reported for the Vernal Employers Committee, saying that a seminar on hiring workers was held in November. The seminar was put on by Ted Chambley, with about 12 individuals in attendance. A second seminar, scheduled for Jan. 14th, will be held on terminating employees. There have been more sign up for the second one than the first.

Senator Evans then provided a legislative briefing making the following points:

- She began by saying that this session promises to be a colorful one, as there will not be enough \$ to cover all the requests.
- The proposal to sell the states share of Workmens Compensation will be debated.
- There have also been over 50 different bills on parental rights filed.
- Sick leave conversion for state employees will be discussed.
- Some of the legislative leadership positions are open, and there is a lot of posturing going on among those who want to run for those
- Governor Walker is proposing that B and C road funds and water development funds be used for education. Rural counties rely on those funds for roads and water projects.
- Looks like there will be a 17-21% increase in health premiums and a 17-20% increase in retirement costs for state employees
- The state will retire debt of \$61 million, and the capital building renovation will be \$50 million, so that leaves \$11 million, just about the cost of the proposed USU/UBATC building.
- There will be \$6.7 million proposal to help in training more nursing instructors, so that the number of nursing classes can increase

Senator Evans encouraged all to pay attention to bills that may have an impact on them, particularly a fiscal impact, and let her know about specifics so that she can address them with legislators.

Mark thanked Senator Evans for her presentation. There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

The next meeting will be held on April 7th at 11:00 am in Roosevelt.